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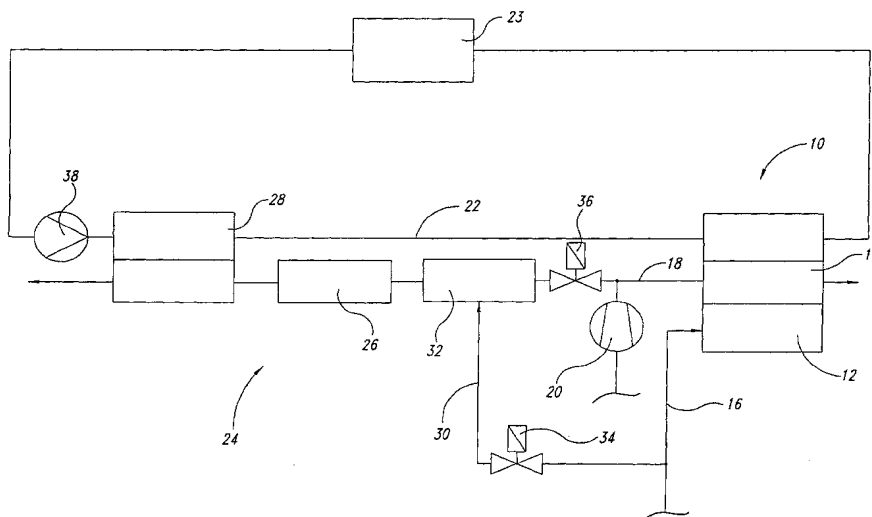
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(54) Title: METHOD TO COLD-START A FUEL CELL SYSTEM AT SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method to cold-start a fuel cell system at subzero temperatures, whereby the fuel cell system comprises a fuel cell stack, upstream of which is connected a heating device to heat a cooling agent to be circulated by a coolant pump. To reduce the demand for stored electrical energy, a cold fuel cell stack is operated at such a capacity that it generates sufficient power to operate the heating device and the coolant pump; the power generated by the fuel cell stack is used to operate the heating device for heating the cooling agent as well as the coolant pump, whereby the coolant pump circulates the cooling agent between the fuel cell stack and the heating device; and the heating device is switched off as soon as the fuel cell stack reaches a preset temperature that is higher than the original temperature.

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